

## Economic Development Commission

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Regular meeting 7:30 PM September 17, 2012 Salem CT Town Offices

1. Call to order:

7:38p.m.

Attending: Ada Vail, Nicole Gadbois, Larry Stevens, Frank Sroka, Bob Ross, Jenifer Lee

2. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Ada moved
- b. Larry Seconded
- c. Motion carried

3. New Business:

- a. Ada suggested the town hosting a holiday craft bazaar. This would be an outlet for local crafters to display their wares. Frank mentioned there is a craft fair hosted by the fire house which does give crafters an opportunity to set up booths.

4. Selectman's Report:

- a. Roundabout: A lot of good feedback- since construction started there has been no accidents and no backups to speak of. Everything is on schedule. The center will have indigenous plants within the roundabout. All of the signage down there at this time is temporary- once construction is complete there will be larger yield signs. People will need to learn how to use them- Frank suggested perhaps a "cheat sheet" for people to learn how to use it to be handed out at the Rotary. Bob Ross pointed out that this is not a perfect solution, but this is a major improvement. Frank suggested a sign that says "Roundabout traffic has the right of way."
- b. Salem Country Gardens: Todd Burnett purchased the building (which was foreclosed on) on Saturday at auction. The plan is to continue as a garden center. The goal is to re-open by Easter and to return it to the quality that it was. Making it a destination would be the best way to make it a success- what else can you do there? Ada mentioned gearing something towards children.
- c. A new Annual event in town: Paugwonk Day: Treasure Hill Farms- a small version of the apple festival-
- d. Town meeting in Salem- this Thursday night. This meeting is to accept Salem's entrance to Carvalo Rd.

- e. Frank brought up the fact that the Salem Town Center looks terrible- Bob responded that the roundbaout and the improved store fronts on the opposite side of the road will put pressure on the owner to clean up the town center.
  - f. Planning: We discussed in detail that the town planner should be held accountable to the First selectman instead of planning and zoning. There has been a lot of complaint about the process of going through the planning department. In order to make this change the town charter would have to be modified. This process would start with a town charter revision committee. Frank will contact Kevin Lyden regarding getting the process started.
5. Communications:
- a. Frank discussed the draft created by Planning and Zoning for regulations for the development of a village district
6. Public Comment: None
7. Reports:
- a. Farmer's Market: The market will be ending the last week of September. The Lyme Times will publish the farmer's market for free. Ada also mentioned the postcard that Bozrah sent out. Larry mentioned the dog Frisbee trainer to attract people. Additionally- there is a vet who is interested in having a booth at the farmer's market. Next spring would be the time to publish a special article in Our Town of Salem to let people know that there is availability for people to come out and represent their businesses. Ada mentioned that it is more important to have a variety of vendors so that each farmer can sell out. This will keep vendors happy. It is also important to be sure that vendors commit to staying through the season.
    - i. Frank suggested having a business expo sponsored by EDC to accommodate all of Salem businesses.
8. Adjournment: Our next meeting is October 15, 2012
- a. Motion to Adjourn: Larry Made the Motion
  - b. Jen Seconded the motion
  - c. Adjourned at 9:00p.m.

